

REMARKS

Claim 12 is amended herein. Claims 9-16 remain pending in the captioned case. Entrance of the amendment is respectfully requested.

Section 112 Rejections

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement, and under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In response thereto, claim 12 has been amended in a manner believed to address the concerns expressed in the Office Action. Accordingly, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 9-12 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,535,033 to Guempelein et al. (hereinafter “Guempelein”) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0095508 to Kadous et al. (hereinafter “Kadous”). Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guempelein in view of Kadous and U.S. Patent No. 5,659,368 to Landis (hereinafter “Landis”). In response thereto, Applicants file herewith a Notice of Appeal and will address these rejections in the subsequent Appeal Brief.

CONCLUSION

The present amendment is in response to the final Office Action mailed May 23, 2007. Applicants respectfully request the amendment be entered in order to place the pending claims in better condition for appeal. If the Examiner has any questions, comments, or suggestions, the undersigned attorney earnestly requests a telephone conference.

No fees are required for filing this amendment; however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Daffer McDaniel, LLP Deposit Account No. 50-3268.

Respectfully submitted,

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